



Plumed Bird of Paradise
Paradisea decora
d'Entrecasteaux Island



Wallace's Bird of Paradise
Semioptera wallacei
Bachian Island



Prince Rudolph's Bird of Paradise
Paradisornis rudolphi



King Bird of Paradise
Cinnurus regius

BIRDS OF PARADISE

Painted from Life by MRS. ELLIS ROWAN

FROM THE SERIES NOW ON EXHIBITION AT THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

BIRDS OF PARADISE are found only in New Guinea and some of the nearby islands, and some species are confined to a very limited area, or to a single island. They are remarkable not merely for the beauty of their plumage, but for their extraordinary development in the shape of plumes, crests and gorgets, scarcely any two kinds or species being alike in this respect.

MR. ELLIS ROWAN is the widow of the late Captain F. G. Rowan, of New Zealand, and is best known from her numerous and very beautiful paintings of the flowers of the West Indies, Australia and the adjoining islands, amounting in all to many hundreds. It is comparatively recently that she has devoted herself to birds and she was attracted to them by the wonderful plumage shown by the Birds of Paradise.

In order to paint them from life she visited New Guinea and the adjacent islands, living in the wildest parts and among the most savage and cannibalistic natives. Owing to her tact and talent she made friends with these and employed them to bring to her the Birds of Paradise, about forty species of which she secured, including some of the rarest species, seldom seen in museums.